(B) Following terminal benefits/retirement benefits have also been released:

a.	General Provident Fund *vide* cheque No. 892734 dated 15.12.2001.	Rs. 64,644
b.	Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme Plus Pay for December 2001 *vide* cheque No. 892773 dated 27.12.2001	Rs. 37,375
c.	The widow of Late Sh. Deshraj, Smt. Munesh Devi has also been appointed as peon on compassionate grounds and she has joined duty on 11.3.2002.	

Reports of National Minorities Commission

†*668. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports of National Minorities Commission which have not been presented in Parliament and by when the same would be presented;

(b) whether Government have taken any action on the said reports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Two reports of the erstwhile Minorities Commission and seven reports of the National Commission for Minorities are yet to be presented in the Parliament. The recommendations contained in these reports have been sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government as well the State Governments for preparation of action taken report before the Reports are laid on the Table of the House.

National Illness Assistance Fund

*669. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total grant-in-aid released to States under National Illness Assistance Fund during the last three years;

(b) the types of illness/ailments covered under the scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact the Medical Superintendent of AIIMS, JIPMER, Pondicherry were given funds for providing immediate financial assistance to poor patients;

(d) whether this scheme/facility is being extended to reputed hospitals of other States; and

(e) whether there is a proposal to increase the amount of assistance under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The grant-in-aid released to States under National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	States	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	Goa	0.15
	Gujarat	1.00
	Rajasthan	1.00
2000-2001	Sikkim	0.25
	J& K	0.125
	Bihar	1.25
	Goa	0.15
2001-2002	Chhattisgarh	0.50
	Andhra Pradesh	2.50

(b) The NIAF Scheme provides financial assistance to poor patients living below poverty line for treatment of life threatening diseases. An illustrative list of such diseases is given in the Statement (*see* below).

(c) A revolving fund upto Rs. 15.00 lakhs is placed at the disposal of Medical Superintendents, AIIMS, New Delhi and JIPMER, Pondicherry to enable them sanction immediate financial assistance upto Rs. 50,000/in each deserving case reporting for treatment in their institutes. The advance amount is replenished as and when reports of utilization are received.

(d) The scheme for providing the revolving fund has also been extended to NIMHANS, Bangalore, PGIMER, Chandigarh, CNCI, Kolkata, SGPGIMS, Lucknow, Gandhi Memorial and Associated Hospital, Lucknow and CIP, Ranchi,

besides Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, LHMC and Smt. S.K. Hospital, New Delhi.

(c) There is no proposal to increase the amount of assistance under the Scheme.

Statement

An illustrative list of categories of diseases covered for treatment under the NIAF Scheme*

1. Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Aheretomy, Heatsurgery for Congenital and Acquired conditions including C.A.B.G., Vascular Surgery stents and Cardiac Transplantation, etc.

2. Cancer

Radiation treatment of all kinds.

Anti Cancer Chemotherapy.

3. Urology/Nephrology

Dialysis alongwith consumable goods (coils and dialysis solution etc.). Vascular shunts for Dialysis, P.C.N. & P.C.N.L. Kits, Lithotripsy (for stones)-disposable and stents for endoscopic surgical procedure in urology and Gastroenterology, Renal and Hepatee transplantation.

4. Orthopaedics

Artifical prosthesis for limbs, implants and total hip and knee replacement external fixaters, AO implants used in the treatment of bone disease and fractures.

5. Miscellaneous

Intra-ocular lens implants, hearing aids and shunts for hydrocephalus.

6. Investigations

Ultra-sound, Doppler shidres, Radiooneulcolide scans, CT scan, Mammography, Angiography for all organs, M.R.L., E.E.G., E.M.G., Urodynamic studies.

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*The list could be modified by the Technical Committee.

7. Drugs

Immuno-supressive drugs, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haemophile globulin, Erythropoiten, Blood and Blood products/Plasma for patients of burn.

8. Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

Rabies Vaccine

†*670. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of persons die of dog biting even today for want of rabies vaccines in the country;

(b) if so, the efforts to be made by Government for having adequate stock of rabies vaccine in Government hospitals throughout the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to initiate action against the officials responsible for not maintaining adequate stock of the rabies vaccine and other vital vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per data available from the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), deaths reported in the country due to rabies are 566 in 1998, 483 in 1999 and 403 in 2000. Shortage of Rabies Vaccine has not been reported by any State Government to this Ministry. Indents for supply of rabies vaccine are placed directly with manufacturers of the vaccine by the State Health Authorities.

2.5 million animal bites (including dog bites) are estimated to be occurring in the country every year. About 1.4 million individuals are getting post-exposure treatment for rabies annually, of which 0.5 million are receiving treatment with Neural Tissue Vaccine and 0.9 million are getting treatment with Tissue Culture Vaccine. The production capacity of Anti-Rabies Vaccine available in the country is sufficient to meet the requirement.

Since Health is essentially a State subject, it is for the State Health Authorities to ensure availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccine in sufficient quantity in all peripheral health units.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.